

Work Services in general, now would appear to be the time to ask that particular attention be given to the social workers' role as Mental Welfare Officers. I suggest that this role requires careful re-evaluation.

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### ***Gaskell Prize Examination***

DEAR SIR

The Gaskell Prize Examination will take place this year in the Department of Psychiatry, Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Glossop Road, Sheffield. The written examination will be on Friday afternoon May 15th at 2 p.m., and the clinical

examination will be on Saturday morning 16th May. Accommodation at reasonable rates can be arranged for any candidates who wish it.

Recent examiners have asked me to point out that the examination is intended to pick out a psychiatrist with a particularly high level of clinical knowledge and skills. Entrants should see themselves as active in a broad clinical field and working in a hospital or unit in which there is vigorous therapeutic interaction in the broadest sense.

With the examination moving to different centres in the country each year it is hoped that there can be a broad field of well-qualified candidates.

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## ***The College***

### ***Rotational Training Schemes in Psychiatry and Assessment of Trainees\****

Council have given consideration to the organization of rotational training schemes in psychiatry at senior house officer and registrar level and the assessment of trainees. Council are conscious of the wide range of opinion held within the profession about the content of general professional (i.e. pre-MRCPsych) training and the need for any guidance offered to be sufficiently flexible to accommodate a variety of viewpoints. Nonetheless, it is felt that reasonably clear advice can be given about the main components of general professional training. It is hoped that this report will be helpful to psychiatric tutors and others responsible for organizing training schemes. The College has already issued guidance on some of the matters with which this report is concerned in its pamphlet *Educational Programmes for Trainees in Psychiatry* and in an article entitled 'Approval Visits: Guidelines on Criteria and Facilities for Training' (*Bulletin*, September 1978, pp 158-59).

#### ***Need for rotational training***

Whether rotational training schemes were necessary at all was considered. The public's expectations of, and the range of demands upon, psychiatrists today mean that training has

to include experience in a number of different professional areas and settings, in each of which the training provided should be of a high standard. Moreover, because of the nature of psychiatry, it is important that trainees should be exposed to a variety of approaches. It is most important that all consultants who have trainees under their supervision should regard in-service training, including individual supervision, as among their chief responsibilities.

#### ***Administration of training schemes***

It may be appropriate for a Regional committee to be established to oversee and monitor the organization of rotational training schemes within the Region, or for this function to be undertaken by an existing Regional committee. At local level rotational training schemes of any size should be administered by a Postgraduate Training Committee, which may, of course, have other responsibilities. The Committee should include an adequate number of representatives of the consultants involved in the training scheme as well as representation of the trainees themselves and of any other bodies or groups considered appropriate. It will be the responsibility of the Postgraduate Training Committee to arrange the attachment of trainees within the scheme and to ensure that trainees are placed only with consultants willing and suitable to act as trainers. It is helpful for the Committee to include a representative of the administration. A good relationship with the administration established

\*This report was initially drafted by a working party of the Psychiatric Tutors Sub-Committee: Dr L. Tarlo (Chairman), Drs M. W. Annear, I. G. Bronks, H. Ghadiali (Collegiate Trainees Committee), M. T. Haslam and J. S. Stead.